

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the recent telephone conversation with the undersigned. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-28 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 26 being the independent claims. Support for the subject matter of the amended claims is contained in the application as originally filed. Applicants submit the foregoing amendments do not raise new issues and present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

In the ADVISORY ACTION of October 30, 2002, the Examiner indicated that the rejection of claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, has been partially overcome, noting only that "[l]ine 13 of claim 1 still contains the previously indicated improper limitation of 'said score line'". Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome by the accompanying amendment to claim 1.

A reissue supplemental declaration will follow under separate cover once the declaration is signed by all inventors.

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extension of time or additional claims, and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Order No. 463678-00162; Docket No. RI-61182/RBC/VEJ).

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. RI-61182/RBC/VEJ
Attorney Matter No. 463678-00162
Application No. 09/375,164

Prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment and response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

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